



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

— **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility began safely processing VX agent-filled projectiles after successfully completing changeover. As of July 16, the work force had safely processed 7,623 155 mm projectiles and 4,673 gallons of liquid VX agent. Officials predict it will take one year to process the VX projectiles.

— **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely disposed of 1,671 mustard agent-filled ton containers since beginning mustard operations in August 2006. Deseret Chemical Depot held a celebration July 17 to mark CMA's 45 percent chemical agent destruction milestone.

— **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely neutralized approximately 1,513,693 pounds of chemical agent VX (approximately 179,353 gallons), 60 percent of its stockpile, as of July 17. The United States has received credit for destroying 627,912 pounds of agent under the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Army receives credit for chemical destruction when the hydrolysate is transferred from shipping containers at the commercial waste treatment facility.

— **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.,** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) continued changeover from GB rocket processing to VX rocket processing. Activities include processing secondary waste and used decontamination solution, maintenance of facility equipment and completion of Deactivation Furnace System operations. Since operations began, PBCDF has eliminated more than 100,000 pounds of secondary waste.

— **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has destroyed the last of Umatilla Chemical Depot's GB (sarin) chemical munitions on July 8, marking the end of the GB campaign. (See accompanying story at right.)

— **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project's** Explosive Destruction System at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., has destroyed approximately 65 percent of the recovered chemical warfare munitions stored at the arsenal. The German Traktor rocket motor/warhead separation program is approximately 41 percent complete and equipment and procedures are being developed at the Ton Container Decontamination Facility in anticipation of an August start-up.

DEPOT PROCESSES ITS LAST GB-FILLED MUNITION

The chemical agent with the most associated risk is gone from Umatilla Chemical Depot. On July 8, the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) destroyed the last GB (sarin) chemical munition stored at Umatilla Chemical Depot. GB nerve agent is volatile, evaporates easily, and poses the greatest risk in storage to nearby communities. The GB drained from the final munition, a 155 mm artillery projectile, was incinerated in the Liquid Incinerator, marking the end of the GB campaign.

"We are living up to our commitment to the community to safely store, transport and destroy chemical weapons at the depot, and to reduce – and eventually eliminate – the danger they pose," said Lt. Col. Donna Rutten, depot commander.

The GB agent disposal campaign began in September 2004 and included destruction of more than 155,000 munitions and approximately 1,010 tons of agent. The munitions were stored in more than 60 storage igloos, now empty.

Other munitions destroyed since processing began were M55 rockets, 8-inch projectiles, ton containers and 500- and 750-pound bombs. In the final phase of the GB campaign, 47,406 155 mm GB artillery projectiles were processed through the Metal Parts Furnace.

A challenge at UMCDF was that aging GB munitions were more prone to leak than other types of chemical munitions. Leaking munitions were "overpacked" inside another container and safely transported to be destroyed.

"This community, Oregon, Washington and the world are safer because the last GB munition is gone," said Don Barclay, site project manager for the Army. "Our storage and disposal workers were consistently safe and highly professional throughout this long campaign."

This was the first of three major agent disposal campaigns. Munitions containing VX nerve agent and mustard blister agent remain stored at the depot.

The work force will spend several months preparing the plant for M55 VX rocket disposal. During the changeover, workers will receive refresher training on handling VX agent. VX start-up should begin late this year.

Umatilla Mayor Dave Trott, who works as a Umatilla Chemical Depot contractor, said his community is pleased with the elimination of the depot's GB munitions. "It's the best news we could have," he said. "Now the community is looking forward to the end of VX and mustard."



The last tray of sarin-filled 155 mm artillery projectiles destroyed at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility on July 8.

TOCDF'S AREA 10 CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF) celebrated its one-year anniversary of the start of the Area 10 mustard ton container operation on June 7. Currently, 3,000 ton containers of mustard agent have been sampled, approximately 1,000 ton containers ahead of schedule.



APG FIRST IN NATION TO CLOSE FACILITY

The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ABCDF) at Aberdeen Proving Ground-Edgewood Area (APG-EA) in Maryland is the first of the nation's chemical agent stockpile destruction facilities to receive environmental regulatory agency closure certification. The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has approved ABCDF's permit closure under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

"The fact that ABCDF achieved the RCRA closure in such a short time is a major accomplishment, but the workers also met the requirements without ever receiving a Notice of Violation during ABCDF's operating life. I'm very proud of them and they should be very proud of themselves," said Dale Ormond, CMA Acting Director.

RCRA closure can take several years to complete and the process requires careful sampling and analysis documentation. Once the permitted facility receives regulatory agency approval for its closure plan, it must closely follow the plan as it decontaminates and disposes of contaminated equipment and facilities. The plan specifies a sampling analysis program for potentially contaminated materials at the site and establishes reporting procedures. In the final stage the facility submits a closure report to the agency confirming that all contaminated material has been properly removed or cleaned and verifies that all procedures in the closure plan were followed.

"Closing the ABCDF's RCRA permit entailed many people working as a team to meet one goal," said Brian O'Donnell, ABCDF's site project manager. "Everyone at the ABCDF, the government staff and the Bechtel Aberdeen workers alike, along with APG's environmental compliance personnel, worked closely with MDE officials throughout the life of the project to anticipate regulatory concerns and clarify reporting requirements."

ARMY VOLUNTARILY HALTS HYDROLYSATE SHIPMENTS

The U.S. Army has agreed to suspend shipment of caustic wastewater, commonly referred to as hydrolysate, from the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) in Indiana to Port Arthur, Texas, until a federal judge rules on the matter later this month.

The Sierra Club, Chemical Weapons Working Group, Indiana's Citizens Against Incineration at Newport, and the Community In-Power Development Association of Port Arthur filed suit to block nerve agent wastewater shipments out of Indiana. The lawsuit contends that the shipments pose "an imminent and substantial endangerment" to public health and the environment, and that shipping the hydrolysate across eight states to the Veolia Environmental Services Treatment Complex for incineration violates federal law prohibiting transportation of chemical weapons within the United States.

While the plaintiffs claim the shipments of waste contain potentially dangerous concentrations of residual nerve agent, the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) has scientific data that these shipments contain only a miniscule amount of VX – 20 parts per billion or less – and

are no more dangerous than other hazardous wastes shipped every day across the nation. From 2003 to 2006, CMA and its contractors successfully transported more than 6 million gallons of hydrolysate from its Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., mustard agent neutralization facility without a single accident or incident. With less than 2 million gallons of wastewater to be shipped, the NECDF hydrolysate will represent a small fraction of a percent of the total hazardous waste and hazardous materials shipped annually in the United States.

The Army has agreed to extend its voluntary suspension of the hydrolysate shipments until a ruling from the court, but maintains that the shipments are safe. "The Army reaffirms its belief that the shipments have been safe and protective of our workers, our communities and our environment," said CMA spokesman Greg Mahall. "To date, 103 truckloads have made the 16- to 20-hour trip to Veolia without incident." Approximately 360,000 of the estimated 2 million gallons of hydrolysate produced at NECDF have been successfully shipped to Port Arthur since the first truck convoy left NECDF on April 16.

PINE BLUFF, UMATILLA AND PUEBLO UNDERGO COMMAND CHANGES

Three chemical weapons demilitarization sites underwent scheduled changes of command this month as part of the U.S. Army's command rotation.

On July 10, Lt. Col. Clifton R. Johnston replaced Lt. Col. Casey P. Scott as commander of Pine Bluff Chemical Activity. Lt. Col. Scott's next assignment will be as the chief, Combating WMD Branch, Requirements Determination Division, Capabilities Development Integration Directorate, U.S. Army Chemical School, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Lt. Col. Johnston previously served as the Security, Plans and Operations Officer of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Directorate of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency since January 2005.

Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., a former U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency installation recently transferred to the Joint Munitions Command out of Rock Island, Ill., also saw its leadership flag transferred. Col. William M. Barnett IV replaced Col. Brian S. Lindamood as commander of Pine Bluff Arsenal on July 11. Col. Lindamood's next assignment will be at Headquarters, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Fort Belvoir, Va. Col. Barnett, who entered the Army in 1986, served as part of a Joint Special Operations Task Force during Operation Desert Storm, commanding the Headquarters Company for the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne). Most recently, he commanded the 23rd Chemical Battalion at Camp Carroll, Republic of Korea.

At Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD), Ore., Lt. Col. Bob Stein replaced Lt. Col. Donna Rutten in a ceremony on July 12 to become the depot's 34th commander. Lt. Col. Rutten will take an assignment at the U. S. Northern Command at Fort Carson, Colo. Lt. Col. Stein, a Pittsburgh native and a commissioned officer since 1988, most recently served in the Republic of Korea as the U.S. Forces Korea/Combined Forces Command chemical officer.

On July 19, Lt. Col. Christopher K. Chesney took command of Pueblo Chemical Depot, Colo. He replaced Lt. Col. John M. Riley, who will become the Chief of the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-yield Explosives Division, U.S. Army Pacific, Fort Shafter, Hawaii. Lt. Col. Chesney's most recent assignment was at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, as the Chemical, Biological, Radiation, and Nuclear Branch Chief and Operations Team Chief in the Joint Operations Center supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.